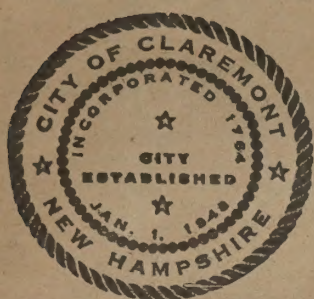


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1969 Annual Report City of Claremont

Monday, July 20, 1970



*The War Memorial in Broad Street Park
Pays Tribute to Claremont's War Dead*



George C. Benway



City of CLAREMONT

Office of: City Manager

To the Mayor, Council Members and residents of the City of Claremont:
It is our pleasure to hereby submit the annual report of the City of Claremont for 1969. Without the benefit of the report of the State Audit Department it is difficult for us to give you a substantiated statement of the City's financial surplus condition as has been customary in the past. It does appear, however, that your 1969 budget was adequate to meet all needs of the City for that year and there will still be some monies left in surplus.

Perhaps the most important project in Claremont during fiscal 1969 was the Washington Street Project which was a joint effort with Federal, State and City funds. The end of the year saw this project very near completion, with some minor grading work to be completed when the construction season opens in 1970. We feel sure that this project has been a great improvement to one of the main entrances to the city.

In our opinion the economy of the city continued to improve through 1969 and employment remained high, with unemployment figures ranging at about the 2% mark.

Perhaps the most important industrial venture during the year was the acquisition of the Montclare Shoe building on Mulberry Street by Hampshire Manufacturing of Nashua, their long range plan showing expansion in the very near future. The City's greatest setback in the industrial area was the closing of the U.S. Shoe plant at the Junction. However, a great deal of initial groundwork has been laid to acquire a new industry in this facility in the near future.

The largest commercial endeavor during the year appears to be the expansion of the facility at the Giant Store on Maple Avenue in which considerable addition to the existing building was started.

For the year 1969 it is our opinion that the City of Claremont continued to progress in all areas, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all city departments for their excellent work through the year and also my judgement in behalf of the City of Claremont.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. Benway

The Fire Department consists of 13 regular men and approximately 38 call men under Chief Paul Lovejoy.

During 1969 the Department processed 333 fire calls broken down in the following classifications: residential — 49; places of business — 9; mercantile — 20; manufacturing — 6; storage, etc. — 2; grass or brush fires — 42; and miscellaneous — 94. Twenty-eight of these calls were bell alarms, nine of which were false alarms. Of the 94 miscellaneous calls, 89 pertained to accidents, first aid and investigations. Calls also received by the Department requesting fire permits, inspections or information totaled 4,686.

A total of 92 new or replaced oil burners were inspected and 10 gasoline storage tanks were inspected prior to their placement underground; after they were placed underground; and again after they were buried. These three inspections are completed to insure proper equipment, proper safety devices and proper installation. Ninety-two written fire permits were issued and 450 permits were issued by phone.

Station Repairs

Repairs to the Fire Station consisted primarily of painting all upstairs bedrooms and the main apparatus floor. Some rewiring was done in the cellar of the Station and additional heat detectors were added to the present system in an attempt to bring the building up to present-day standards. The ramp in front of the Station was again sealed to maintain its good condition.

A fire inspection and prevention program was carried out throughout the year. During the fall months an extensive fire program was put on for

all third and fourth grade public and parochial school students. Unity and Cornish schools were included in this program which consisted of bringing out the hazards that might be found around their homes and stress was placed on a home escape plan which each family could utilize. To implement this program, during Fire Prevention Week fire drills were held in each school.

The Fire Inspector reported that 500 buildings were inspected. These included public buildings, garages, service stations and apartment blocks. When fire hazards were discovered, owners were notified and corrections were made. Many of these hazards had they not been discovered and corrected could have led to serious fires.

Classes Held

Classes again this year were held at the Claremont Nursing Home, Claremont General Hospital and the Sullivan County Home with students attending from the New Hampshire Vocational Technical College. These classes were held to acquaint the personnel of these institutions on methods of extinguishing small fires they might encounter during their tour of duty. These students were also instructed on the proper method of reporting a fire and also proper evacuation procedures.

As has been carried out in previous years, drill classes were held for all permanent personnel and call men every Tuesday evening during the months of May and June. These particular drill sessions concluded with an early morning drill using the hydrant system in the compact area of the City. Monthly drills are held for all personnel during the summer, fall and winter.

Three regular men from the

Department attended a three-day class on the application of emergency first aid. These classes were conducted by the Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire. Six firemen attended courses on Emergency Planning and Operation. The first course was conducted at the National Guard Armory and involved 60 hours of classes. The second was put on in the City Hall and consisted of a 30-hour course. These classes were sponsored by the University of New Hampshire Extension Service and the Department of Civil Defense.

Alarm System

The fire alerting system and the fire alarm system are probably the two most important factors for containing what could have been major conflagrations in the City. Our alarm system has four circuits containing 84 alarm boxes. All boxes were checked at three different times during the year. As part of this alarm system is rather old, it requires continual maintenance throughout the year. As well as the 84 boxes used by the public, there are also private boxes in local industries, schools and nursing homes which are tested regularly during the year.

Two new master boxes were installed — one in the Stevens High School Office and the other at Way School. While the Washington Street Project was being completed, new wire was strung and box locations were changed. Wire was also restrung on Broad Street and a fire detector system was installed at the Goodwin Community Center. Five thousand feet of new wire was purchased and restrung and four new batteries were purchased for the Central Control System in the Station. A rebuilt transmitter was purchased and installed in the dispatch room of the Station.



FIREMEN are called to action in all types of weather and working with spraying hoses during sub zero temperatures makes the job doubly tough. Capt. Stanley M. Demars works with determination to quell a blaze in spite of icicles covering his hat and jacket.



OFFICER Berna Cragin has been with the Claremont Police Department for 21 years. Included in her job as clerk are various secretarial duties, radio dispatching, operating the teletype machine and answering an almost constantly ringing telephone. Officer Cragin praised her co-workers and the general public, most of whom she said have made her job very enjoyable.

Police Department

The annual report of the Claremont Police Department for the year 1969 again shows an increase in most of the departments activities.

The three police vehicles traveled a combined distance of 173,739 miles while engaged in investigating 8,375 complaints of all natures, 355 motor vehicle accidents in which three people were killed and 139 injured, providing emergency transportation 1,580 times, delivering 352 emergency messages and providing 5,475 security checks on vacant homes for Claremonters while on vacation.

There were 212 serious crimes committed in Claremont during the year 1969 of which 94 were cleared by arrest, these included Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft. There were a total of 1,414 crimes investigated and processed through court, this is exclusive of minor violations such as parking violations.

The Police Commission being ever mindful of the need for progressive law enforcement continued to make it possible for police officers to receive specialized training whenever it was available.

The following changes in personnel took place during 1969. Sergeant Dan Wright resigned to work in private industry. Patrolman Donald Cross resigned to accept employment in Arizona. Patrolman Richard Carey resigned to work in private industry, however, he remains as a special officer. Patrolman Albert Bergeron was

appointed Sergeant to replace Sgt. Wright. Charles Fletcher, Arthur Bastian, Herbert Fellows and Edgar Lunderville were appointed Probationary Patrolman.

E. Clarence Peterson and David Mathews were appointed Radio Dispatchers and work in a civilian capacity.

The present department members working in a regular capacity and their years of service are:

Chief William J. Lynch, 29 yrs.

Deputy Chief Donald Michaud, 12 yrs.

Captain Ernest Fausse, 23 yrs.

Sergeant Isadore Fleury, 22 yrs.

Sergeant William Blewitt, 19 yrs.

Sergeant Robert Laramie, 8 yrs.

Sergeant Albert Bergeron, 6 yrs.

Police Clerk Berna Cragin, 21 yrs.

Patrolman Stanford Mower, 25 yrs.

Patrolman Wayne Hart, 14 yrs.

Patrolman David Kinson, 5 yrs.

Patrolman Peter Hickey, 4 yrs.

Patrolman Donald Underwood, 2 yrs.

Patrolman Charles Fletcher, 1 yr.

Patrolman Arthur Bastian, 1 yr.

Patrolman Herbert Fellows, 1 yr.

Patrolman Edgar Lunderville, 1 yr.

Dispatcher E. Clarence Peterson, 2 yrs.

Dispatcher David Mathews, 1 yr.

In addition to regular officers a reserve force of ten Special Officers assist. An Auxillary Force called R.E.A.C.T. have performed many hours of valuable service for the police department and the entire community at no cost to the City.

Chief Lynch said he will recommend that in the coming year serious consideration be given to the assigning of a uniformed policeman for duty in Moody Park during that part of the year when the park is open to the public due to a marked increase in vandalism within the park.

The Board of Police Commissioners are Robert E. Arcand, Chairman; Richard Limoges and George Conides.

The Chief thanked all who contributed in any way toward making the job a little easier, and special thanks to the Mayor, City Manager, members of the City Council, City Department heads and members of their department, to the Honorable Court Judges Albert D. Leahy, Associate Judge Raymond V. Denault, Clerk of the Court William C. Nobbs, County Attorney Charles V. Spanos, Sheriff John McCusker and his staff and a very special thanks to all the members of the department for a job well done.

Highway Dept.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Superintendent John Fennessey examines the new Sno-Go purchased by the city in 1969. The snow removal device, which cost more than \$38,000, expedited the removal of huge snowbanks along city streets. The Sno-Go gathered snow and blew it into waiting trucks where it was then taken to an area near the Claremont Paper Mill and was dumped near the Sugar River.

During the months of January, February and March, 1969, there was a total snowfall of 77 inches; 17 inches above the annual average.

Also, November and December were quite wintry with 40 inches of snow falling.

During these five months the Highway Department used 2,095 yards of sand, 842 tons of salt and 17 tons of chloride to control ice.

Grissom Lane, the new two-lane highway connecting the Charlestown Road and the River Road was opened to traffic during the summer of 1969.

During the year, the department applied Dix Seal to Washington Street, used 62,713 gallons of asphalt on various roads and streets throughout the city, graded and chlorided gravel roads, replaced many culverts, repaired headers, cleaned flow lines and catch basins, set guard posts, swept streets and roads, cut brush, screened sand, mixed cold patch, installed drainage, collected trash, distributed sand, picked-up leaves, cut shoulders, cleaned ditches, straightened meter posts, plus the unattractive but necessary task of removing dead animals struck by cars on city roads.

Highway department workers also installed, painted or removed traffic signs, maintained and installed street makings and installed catch basins in place of pipe stubs.

New Bridge

A new asphalt and steel deck bridge was installed on the Red Water Brook Road near the Hurlburt residence during 1969.

The Highway Department has 23 pieces of rolling stock, 10 sanders, 12 plows, 5 wings, 2 generators, a tar kettle, a steam boiler, a cement mixer, a York rake, a stone rake and numerous small tools and motors that are maintained at the Highway Garage.

They also maintain vehicles from the Fire, Police, Cemetery and Water and Sewer Departments plus cars used by the Visiting Nurse Association.

State inspection of all these city vehicles is handled by the Department plus all body work and painting of Highway Department vehicles.

The City Dump and garbage collection also is supervised by the Department which had a 27-man crew during 1969 under the supervision of John Fennessey.

Fennessey said that vandalism of signs continued to be a very big headache throughout 1969.

Sewer Department

New mains were laid on Memorial Drive, Glenwood Drive Extension, and Edwin Street. Broad Street hill and a short distance on North Street was relaid due to new road construction.

Thirty two new services were installed and six services were relaid. Six new manholes were built. Approximately 18 miles of the 33 miles of sewer mains were cleaned, this being done each year.

Approximately 339,460,000 gallons of sewage was treated at the disposal plant during the year and 3,064,000 cubic ft. of gas was generated.

The Sewer Dept. consists of a disposal plant operator, two full time men, and a payroll clerk under the direction of Haakon Pederson who has been superintendent of the department since 1948.

Health Department

A full survey of the Sugar River occupied a great deal of time for Dr. Wilson Haubrich, VMD, Claremont's Health Inspector, during 1969.

The survey was made to pinpoint pollution sources along the river which must be cleaned up by 1972 when the federal government expects the river to reach their specified rating.

According to Dr. Haubrich, offenders are presently asked to remedy the situation only when they are reported as a nuisance. This policy was adopted because the city sewerage treatment plant is not large enough to handle the entire city.

Another aspect of the job as Health Inspector is the inspection of meat markets to assure that no uninspected meat is offered for sale. Dr. Haubrich explained that rural areas often are a problem because farm animals are readily available for sale.

Dr. Haubrich also made plant inspections at the Claremont Beef and Foster Beef operations and conducted four routine examinations of local restaurants during the year.

He said that Claremont has one of the strictest licensing codes for restaurants in New Hampshire and that each year restaurant items are sent to a laboratory for a bacteria count.

Anti-Pollution laws enacted by Congress a few years ago call for Dr. Haubrich to check all sewage systems that are installed. The systems, about 100 of them in 1969, had to be diagramed and approved by the State Water Pollution Board, the Building Inspector and the Board of Health and a permanent record kept in the Building Inspector's office.

Dr. Kenneth Staples, VMD, continued his duties as city milk inspector during 1969 and took monthly bacteriological tests during inspection of dairies in the area.

Dr. Haubrich, who has been Health Supervisor since 1939, is also a member of the Board of Health. Members of that Board in addition to Dr. Haubrich are Dr. Irving Crandall, Dr. William Ferriter, Sam Bayer and Mrs. Honorine Bourdon. They held four regular meetings during 1969.

Claremont Housing Authority

During 1969, the Claremont Housing Authority made good progress in Survey and Planning activities in connection with the Lacasse Park Urban Renewal Project. Disappointments were encountered in the Authority's efforts to produce 100 units of housing for the low-income elderly of the city.

During the calendar year 1969, the Commissioners of the Authority were: Robert M. Love, Chairman; Dr. Charles F. Keeley, Vice-Chairman; William L. Gaffney, Treasurer; Harold L. Woodard and William A. Kirn, Jr. Thomas J. McCarthy continued as the Authority's Executive Director, with offices at 45 Crescent Street.

Urban Renewal

All administrative costs, arising from Survey and Planning work, by the Housing Authority, were federally funded during the 12-month period, and the planning firm of James P. Purcell Associates of Hartford, Connecticut, was retained by the Authority.

As a guide to the Authority and its planning firm, in formulating redevelopment policies for the Lacasse Park Urban Renewal area, Dr. Robert Davenport, Urban economist from Washington, D.C., was employed for the purpose of making a Land Use and Marketability Study and an allied Transient Housing Study. These studies were completed by Dr. Davenport in June for presentation at a Mid-Planning Conference, which was held at the Authority offices June 25, 1969.

In addition to Dr. Davenport, the Conference brought together: Seven representatives of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; three representatives of the Authority's planning firm; a representative of the Federal Housing Administration in Manchester; and the staff of the local Authority. As a result of this Conference, the Authority was authorized to undertake First Acquisition Appraisals of properties within the Urban Renewal area and to conduct a series of soil studies to help guide redevelopment plans for the area. This latter step was felt necessary because of the presence of large amounts of ledge rock within the Project boundaries.

The Authority's planning firm employed Warren J. Clattenberg of Pittsfield, New Hampshire to make test borings throughout the Urban Renewal area. When this work had been completed, the soil structure profile, as revealed, was more encouraging to redevelopment plans than possibly could have been expected.

The firm of Hyde Associates of Concord, New Hampshire was employed by the local Authority to make the First Acquisition Appraisals, and this task was completed to the satisfaction of the Authority by mid-October of 1969.

In November, the city won re-certification of its Workable Program for community improvement, thus continuing the eligibility of the community for federal funds necessary to

carry forward Urban Renewal and Public Housing activities. In that same month, members of the Authority staff, members of the planning firm, and five representatives of the Department of Housing and Urban Development met at the Authority offices to lay the ground work for concluding the planning phase of Urban Renewal in the calendar year 1970.

Housing for the Elderly

As the Housing Authority entered the year 1969, the Commissioners had every right to expect that they would soon see completion of the city's first Housing for the Elderly Project.

On January 17, 1969, the federal government approved the execution of a Letter of Intent by Developer Douglas E. Page and the Authority, in which Mr. Page had undertaken to build the Project on a 9.4 acre site on Maple Avenue for \$1,556,964, or an even lower price if his figure proved to be higher than the mid-point between two cost estimates furnished by independent estimators who were hired by the Authority to examine the Working Drawings submitted by Mr. Page.

According to the Housing Authority, Mr. Page refused to build the Project at the price which had been stipulated in the Letter of Intent. The Housing Authority then engaged in a variety of discussions with Mr. Page so that construction could be started on the site on Maple Avenue, but as the year ended, these discussions had proved fruitless, they said.

Vandalism plagued the Cemetery Department during 1969 when about 65 gravestones were smashed and a 14 foot tall iron watering fountain was torn apart and stolen from the Pleasant Street Cemetery.

William Lewis, the superintendent of the department for the past 14 years, said mini bikes used cemetery roads for a race track and vandals tore up the turf at the entrance to the Mt. View Cemetery. Also at that cemetery, a cast iron planter, a ten foot double top cast iron fountain and an iron settee were stolen.

During the year, the department performed 186 funerals and repaired 200 sunken graves with top soil. They also put in 94 foundations for monuments.

They stored 17 bodies in the Pleasant Street Cemetery Tomb during the winter and about 30 new lots were sold in 1969.

The department purchased lawn mowers and regular maintenance equipment and installed about 50 yards of new wire fence at the Pleasant Street Cemetery.

Lewis and his men are responsible for Mountain View and Union Cemeteries and also care for High Street Cemetery, although there are no lots available for sale there. Burials are still performed at Pleasant Street Cemetery, however there are no lots for sale there either.

The department is partially responsible for the care of St. Mary, Jarvis Hill and Meyer-David Cemeteries. They keep records and perform burials at both St. Mary and Meyer-David.

There are two full time men in the department working under Lewis and usually six extra men employed during the summer months.

Water Department

There were no major projects in the Water and Sewer Department in 1969.

Main extensions were made on Memorial Drive, Glenwood Drive Extension, Hillside Avenue, and Paddy Hollow Road. Broad Street hill was relaid due to new road construction. There was a short extension on Washington Street due to same cause.

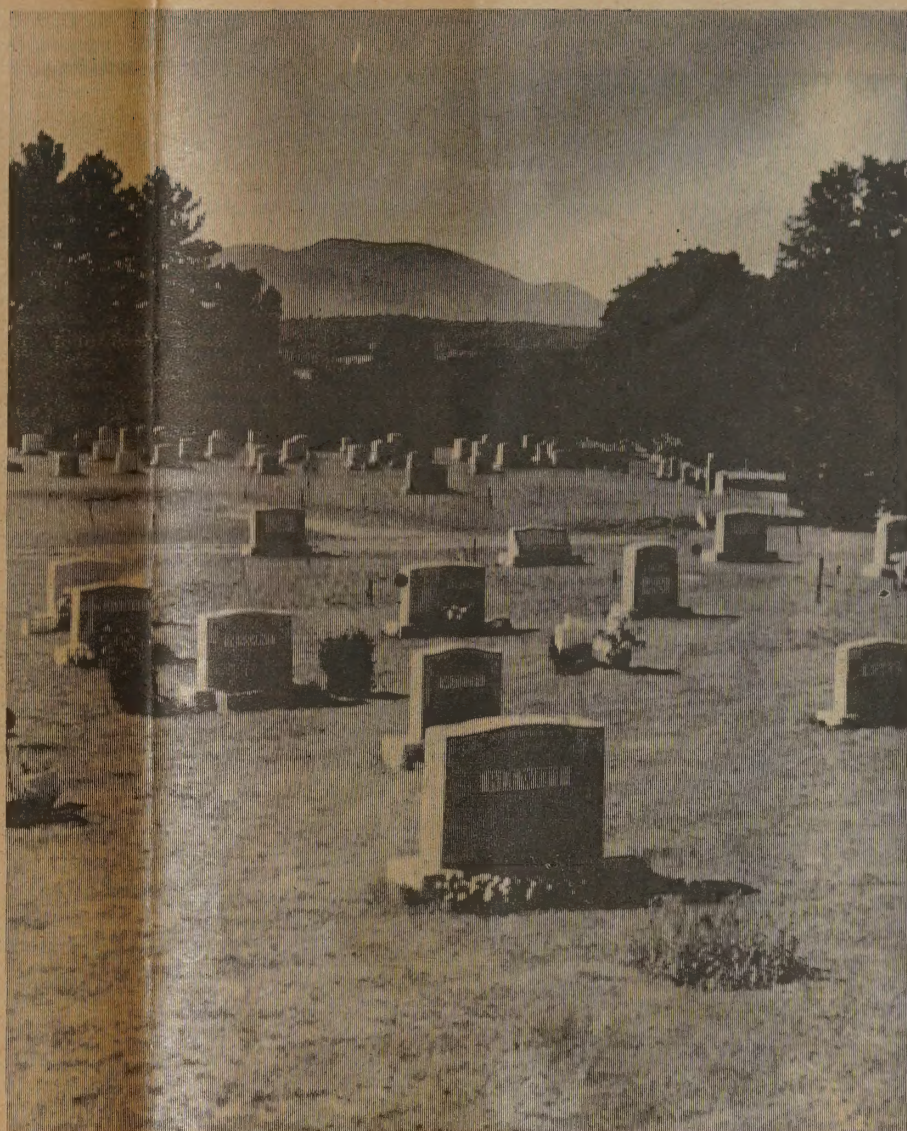
One new hydrant was installed. Six old hydrants were removed and replaced with new ones.

Thirty six new water services were installed and 22 services were relaid.

The Water Department now has 69 miles of water mains, 311 hydrants, 3319 services and 3137 meters in service.

Water consumption for the year was 449,707,000 gallons, an increase of 13,840,000 gallons over 1968, an average of 1,232,000 gallons a day.

Precipitation for 1969 was 42.08 inches, an increase of 6.23 inches over the 35.89 inch average over the past 55 years.



MOUNT ASCUTNEY forms a perfect backdrop for the Mountain View Cemetery in West Claremont. The department workers spend long hours keeping the grass mowed and old flowers removed, however vandals have raised havoc in the cemeteries during 1969.

Visiting Nurse Association

The Visiting Nurse Association made a total of 1,998 visits during 1969 in what was termed a very productive year by Betty Zerba, supervisor.

The Association operated on funds which included \$6,000 from the City; \$3,773 from Blue Cross-Blue Shield (cost reimbursement for 1968); and a total of \$6,412 from Medicare, Medicaid, Insurances and collections.

The Well-Baby Clinic, sponsored by the Lioness Club, was held for 10 months with 187 children attending. (31 children more than 1968)

Also, immunizations and physical exams were given to pre-school children and nurses assisted at a Dental Clinic for three days in July at the Claremont General Hospital. Miss Van Houton, state dental hygienist, gave free fluoride treatments and cleaned the teeth of 27 children between the ages of three and six. Recommendations were made to parents for further care by their family dentist.

The Crippled Childrens Clinic was held in January, April, July and October with 60 children attending. Dr. Robert Lanzer and Dr. Robert Shoemaker were the attending physicians.

Mrs. Zerba attended a lecture and two workshops at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital concerning arthritis.

The new Public Health Coordination Service began in 1969 and was designed to evaluate the need for continuing nursing service following discharge from the hospital. Their were 130 referrals in 1969 with a majority of them post-natal visits.

Mrs. Eleanor Lewko began working as Bookkeeper for the Agency in January, 1969.

A monthly inservice education meeting by the Public Health nurses was conducted by Mrs. Dorothy Allen, state nurse. Several guest speakers in the program included Mrs. Gates, state nutritionist; Mrs. Fox from maternal and child health plus Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Noyes, nurse consultants.

Transportation for three children to attend special clinics at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital was provided by Mrs. Zerba. She also conferred with the attending physicians regarding follow-up care in these cases.

A meeting sponsored by the Association of Home Health Care was attended by Mrs. Eleanor Parmelee, Mrs. Zerba and members of the Board of Directors: Mrs. Polly Wilmarth, Mrs. Velma Sullivan and Miss Mildred Courtemanche. The meeting dealt with responsibilities of a board of directors.

The nurses also attended several meetings in Concord concerning new rulings of the Social Security Administration on Home Health Agencies care and records. Emphasis was placed on patient records

because of the "sue conscious" public.

The Agency distributed 1,000 brochures (describing services) to patients at the hospital and to new families in the city via the Welcome Wagon.

Mrs. Bette Hastings was hired in September to replace Mrs. Karen Lanzer who resigned to take a position with the Head Start program.

The re-survey which is done every 18 months or two years to determine if the Agency continues to meet standards for participation in the Medicare program was completed in September. Mrs. Betty Ann Noyes who conducted the program complimented the staff for compiling information and said she recommended re-certification.

An evaluation of the Agency was completed in December, and a special Advisory Board meeting was held to discuss a new wage scale.

Dr. Lanzer was the attending physician for a Measles Clinic sponsored by the Agency which 30 children attended.

The nurses also distributed mittens that were donated to the needy and gave names of several families to organizations for baskets on Thanksgiving and Christmas.



NEARLY 2,000 visits were made by the Visiting Nurses during 1969 and was termed a very productive year by Supervisor Betty Zerba. Mrs. Eleanor Parmelee prepares for her daily rounds in the agency's car which is provided by funds from the city.

Photo Credits

The 1969 report of the City of Claremont was compiled and edited by Carol Carter, with assistance from department supervisors. Photo of Fire Department, Cemetery Department and City Solicitor Robert Buckley taken by Wayne Carter. Front cover and all other photos in report by Carol Carter.

City Council Highlights



A CITATION from the New England District Advisory Council of the National Recreation and Parks Association was presented in 1969 to Anthony Zotto, director of the Parks and Recreation Department in Claremont. The plaque was given in recognition for Zotto's long and outstanding service in the promotion of recreation in the State of New Hampshire and the New England District.

Recreation Dept.

Hundreds of local children participated in programs held by the Parks and Recreation Department during 1969.

More than 19,000 attended the Indoor Pool with 402 registered in the lifesaving and Learn to Swim programs. Also 60 participated in the Swim and Stay Fl. events.

During the 10 weeks that the outdoor Pool was open a total of 13,236 attended. Twin State Swim Meets were held and the annual New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Society swim meet was again successful.

At the Goodwin Community Center more than 33,000 took part in various activities or used the facilities for meetings. This included arts and crafts and folk dancing, as well as various games available for all age groups.

Outside entertainment sponsored by the department included special daytime programs at Moody, Barnes and Monadnock Parks for children during the summer. Supervised play was attended by nearly 16,000 children. An equal number also took advantage of the three skating rinks maintained by the department during the winter.

During 1969, sports programs included junior baseball and basketball plus adult softball and basketball.

Special events in which the department participated included the erection of Christmas decorations in Broad Street

Park; toys for needy children at Christmas; a Lollipop Carnival; a Frisbee and Hula Hoop Contest; the annual ski-skate exchange; and many Little League, Babe Ruth and Basketball Tournaments. The program sponsored by the department at the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration was a huge success.

According to director Anthony Zotto, his department also cooperated with other organization in various programs. Groups included the American Red Cross, American Youth Hostels, Booster Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, Senior Citizens, School District, plus school departments in Windsor and Perkinsville and Recreation Departments in Springfield and Newport. Zotto also said Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and the 4-H Clubs assisted in various events.

Improvements were made in 1969 to several areas. A softball field was developed at the Outdoor Pool area; a hockey rink was constructed at Monadnock Park by volunteers; a new boiler was installed at the Center and carpeting was placed on the second and third floors.

At Moody Park, more picnic tables and fireplaces were added and a new roof was placed on the stone shelter house at the top of the park.

Zotto said 21 dead Elm trees were removed from Barnes Park.

An innovation at City Council meetings was adopted at the beginning of 1969 when, on the advice of City Manager George C. Benway, the Councilmen were given the opportunity to meet with heads of all city departments for the first half hour of their regular monthly meeting. These executive sessions lasted only until mid-April but provided a better understanding between Councilmen and department management.

Present at the January meeting were Mayor Sydney J. Clarke; Assistant Mayor Theodore M. Monetta and Councilmen Donald G. White, Donald W. Limoges, Jack H. Weiner, Rodney G. Webster, Charles P. Puksta and Carmine F. D'Amante.

City Manager Benway and City Solicitor Robert B. Buckley were also on hand at nearly all meetings throughout 1969.

The City Manager was authorized to invest \$45,000 of the \$56,000 Joy Industrial Fund with the remaining amount slated for deposit in a savings account.

Arthur T. Forrest was appointed Councilor-at-Large after receiving a majority of votes over two other candidates. He replaced William Boudette Jr. who resigned in December, 1968.

Councilors went on record in January, 1969 in favor of electing both city and school board members on the same day. School Board members had notified the Council that they did not favor this plan.

Mrs. Hazel Lord and Theodore Monetta were appointed Trustees of the Fiske Free Library.

At a public budget hearing in February a total city appropriation of \$1,219,008.99 was approved. Total revenue ex-

cluding taxes was approved at \$431,937.

Previous Council action regarding parking meter revenue was rescinded and they voted to place these funds in an off-street parking account. Councilmen stipulated that the money was to be used for the purchase, maintenance and policing of meters and to maintain and improve streets and highways or to acquire or improve and manage public parking areas.

The sum of \$102,000 was appropriated to cover the cost of the Washington Street Project. The Weaver Brothers Construction Company of Concord was awarded the bid.

Re-appointed to the Goodwin Community Center Commission were Morey Miles, William Kinn Jr. and Mrs. Cynthia McKee.

Councilman Donald Limoges was named to the Library Commission to replace Mrs. Rowena Daniels who resigned.

Miller Construction Company was low bidder to demolish the buildings on North Street at a cost of \$5,945.

A new system of collecting unpaid water bills went into effect in March. After 60 days from billing the water was ordered shut off if bills remained unpaid.

Mrs. Eleanor Fletcher was appointed to the Library Commission in the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Virginia Meloney.

City Manager Benway was authorized to sign the Workable Program for Urban Renewal in April.

Councilmen petitioned the General Court to ask for legislation providing property tax relief and recommended a broad base tax as the only realistic solution to the crisis.

A revised Zoning Ordinance was accepted in May and Ordinance III, entitled Regulating Traffic Upon the Public Streets of the City of Claremont, was also adopted.

A change in ward boundaries was sent to the Legislature for an enabling act in addition to a request for a referendum to lower the voting age in municipal and school elections from 21 to 19 years of age.

Raymond Brodeur was reappointed to the Elk's Educational Fund for a one-year term. Also, Harold Woodward was renamed for a five-year term on the Housing Authority.

In August, a new Economic Development Commission was instituted and \$12,000 was taken from the Joy Industrial Fund

to finance the department for remainder of the fiscal year.

The Whitcomb Construction Company was granted the bid to resurface a portion of Washington Street extending from the so-called Washington Street Project near Winter Street to the compact line near the drive-in theater.

Ordinance 116 entitled Loitering was passed which gave police a legal method to handle offenders.

The first members of the Economic Development Commission were named in August by City Manager Benway and Mayor Clarke. They selected Malcolm Hall, Joseph Gorman, Harley Bump, George Hardy, Robert Michaud, Malcolm Rowe, Albert Leahy Jr. and Mrs. Rowena Daniels.

The controversial Sunday Sales ordinance came to the surface again in 1969 and a proposal to place the question on the November ballot was defeated by a vote of 7 to 2.

The Council voted unanimously in October to oppose the proposal by the federal government to take land near the Community Center to expand the Post Office. Councilmen felt the city should retain the land in question for future recreational facilities.

The Council appropriated \$23,000 for the Economic Development Commission for 1970 and voted to appropriate funds for the following two years with that Commission responsible for presenting a budget to the City Manager by November 1st of each year for Council approval.

In November, city voters elected Jack Weiner and Donald P. Fortin from Ward 1; Theodore M. Monetta and Frank Connor from Ward 2 and Carmine F. D'Amante and Arthur T. Forrest from Ward 3.

Also that month, Councilman Monetta asked that \$20,000 be transferred from the Joy Fund to the Off-Street Parking account.

The Council approved the transfer of City Manager Benway to the position of Director of the Economic Development Commission with his transfer effective upon the appointment of a new city manager.

On the last day of 1969, the council appropriated \$28,800 for the Sewage Treatment Survey Report by Whitman and Howard.

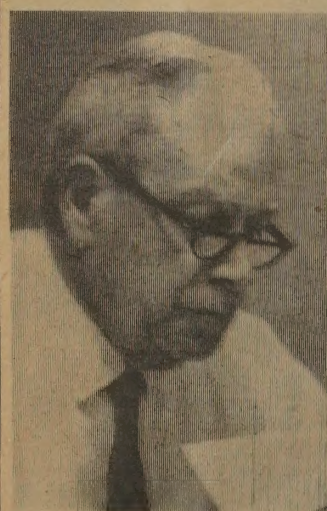
Mr. Benway presented his proposed 1970 City Budget to the entire Council.



Mayor Sidney Clarke



Theodore Monetta
Assistant Mayor



Attorney Robert B. Buckley has been City Solicitor since 1948 when Claremont became a city. Atty. Buckley was appointed to the post and has been present at practically all Council meetings for more than 20 years. Here, he ponders a legal point brought up by a Claremonter during a public hearing.



City Clerk Rose Ellen Haugsrud began her 26th year of continuous employment in the city on September 1, 1969. Among her varied duties as City Clerk, Mrs. Haugsrud has also served as acting city manager on many occasions and attends all City Council meetings to take the minutes.

Fiske Free Library

1969 was another year of growth for the Fiske Free Library. Some 52,000 library articles were circulated, and some 1,000 new library cards were issued.

Some highlights of the year were the development of many new adult programs. Adult education was featured with courses in American History and arts and crafts. A schedule of adult film education was begun, and a full scale display program was started.

Claremonters continued to take advantage of the Fiske Free Library's telephone reference service, fiction and phonograph record selection. The library expanded its record collection moving into all facets of music: rock, jazz, and show tunes.

Weeding of the entire book collection was completed in 1969 making for a complete updating of the library's holdings. Children enjoyed programs including reading clubs and films programs. The library was visited by many school classes during the year, and members of library staff visited classes and students for library education.

The Sarah Gilmore Room met with great popularity in 1969. Several clubs, groups and classes found it to be a compatible meeting hall. The Fiske Free Library also expanded its facilities and now has an additional new meeting room.

New equipment was added to the library in 1969. A very popular coin-operated automatic photo-copy machine has met with great success since its purchase. Also added, was a micro-film reader printer. Now library patrons can not only read micro-film on library equipment, but can also receive print-outs of their stories. The reader-printer was made possible through a grant from the New Hampshire State Library.

The Claremont Garden Club received the award of Best Friend of the Fiske Free Library for 1969.

1969 also marked the retirement of Miss Inez Russell who had served the City of Claremont and the Fiske Free Library for over 25 years. Joseph Green, appointed in 1968, continued as Chief Librarian.

Mrs. Mildred Chandler continues as Assistant Librarian. Miss Cynthia Fleming is now in charge of circulation. Mrs. Ina Leahy is the Children's Librarian. Mrs. Marina Limoges joined the staff in late 1969 and is currently enrolled in the Library Science Techniques Program sponsored by the University of New Hampshire.

Miss Janet Delaney and Mrs. Pamela Gendron work as part-time library assistants.

Mr. Green commends his staff for their able service in 1969. He thanks all nine members of the Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees, and Mr. George C. Benway, City Manager, for their assistance in 1969.



LIBRARY PATRONS received a new service during 1969 when a grant from the New Hampshire State Library made possible the purchase of a micro-film reader-printer. Here, Librarian Joseph Green operates the machine which not only allows people to read the micro-films but also makes prints of stories.

Building Inspector

One hundred eighty seven building permits were issued by Claremont Building Inspector Clifford Lamere during 1969 with the estimated cost on the permits set at \$1,077,380.

Permits included construction for 20 new homes in the city and a new church built on the Plains Road.

The Giant Store on Maple Avenue added to their building three times during 1969. This included space for the TV Stamp Store and the new Super Duper Market.

Also, the Claremont Paper Company tore down old garages and constructed a modern office building and the Dartmouth Woolen Company made a sizeable addition to their mill.

At the Claremont Plaza on Washington Street an addition was made for the New England Telephone Company office. Also on that street, Paul Thibault was given a permit for a new gas station.

The Union Block was re-modeled during 1969 when the Houghton and Simonds Department Store went out of business. Their vacancy was filled by the Singer Sewing Store, the Fashion Boutique and an enlarged Corner Book Store.

The Pleasant Restaurant, a familiar Pleasant Street landmark, announced plans to relocate in the vacated Claremont National Bank building on Tremont Square in 1969 and were issued a permit to remodel those quarters.

Barnes, Rouillard and

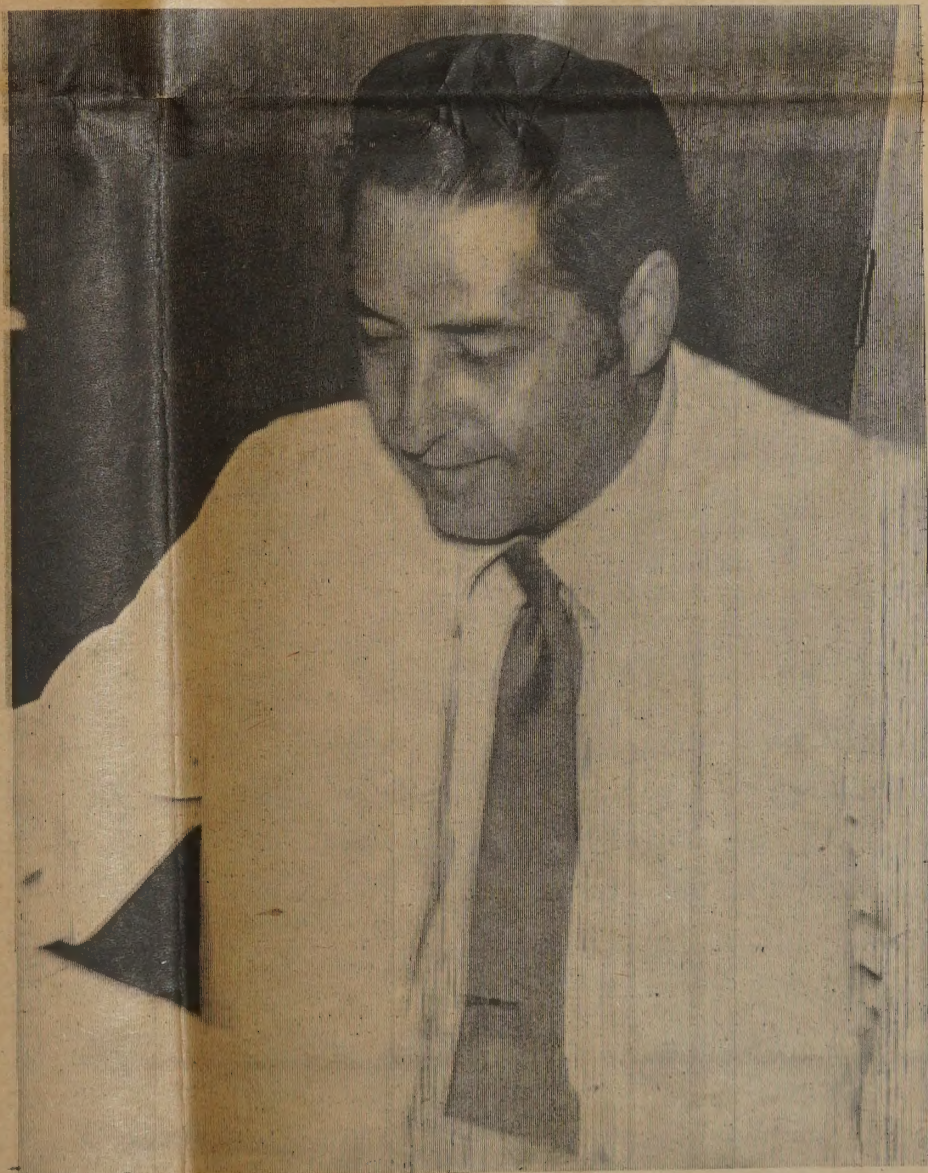
MacPherson also re-modeled office buildings at the corner of Broad and Pine Streets.

Building Inspector Lamere ordered hundreds of junk cars removed from various sections of the city during the year in addition to his duties of visiting construction and re-modeling sites, issuing permits, scanning plans and inspecting buildings. He was appointed to the post in 1965 and since then more than ten million dollars worth of building permits have been issued by his office. (Any remodeling job over \$100 must be approved by Lamere and a permit issued.)

Members of the Plumbing Board again in 1969 were Nicholas Marro, master plumber; Alfred Lambert, journeyman plumber and Dr. Wilson Haubrich, health officer.

Lamere is also the acting agent of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of which Donald Limoges is chairman; James McGuire, co-chairman; Louis LaRiccia, secretary; with Rodney Webster and Arthur Forrest as Board members.

He is also an ex-officio member of the Planning Board which is headed by Paul Williams. The Board's proposed Zoning Ordinance for the city gained Council approval in 1969. Other Board members are Mrs. Honorine Bourdon, secretary; and members Malcolm Carr, Donald Clarke, A.J. Maranville, Jr., and Nyron Wheeler. Councilman Theodore M. Monetta is also an ex-officio member.



REVIEWING building plans occupies Building Inspector Clifford Lamere in his office at City Hall. Since he was appointed as the city's first inspector in 1965, more than ten million dollars worth of permits have been issued by his office.



An Aerial View of Claremont Shows the Business District and Surrounding Area.



Mt. Ascutney as Seen from Webster Avenue in Claremont